

PROTECTING AND RESTORING NORTHWEST RESOURCES



EPA Region 10's Cleanup Programs in Oregon

April 2002



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has several tools to ensure the efficient and safe cleanup of sites contaminated by hazardous substances. EPA can use its authorities under Superfund, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Brownfields to ensure sites are made safe and reusable for local communities.

The heart of our work in the Superfund Program is cleaning up and promoting reuse of contaminated sites. In EPA Region 10, we have completed cleanups at 55 of the 94 Superfund National Priorities List sites, and 22 of these have been removed from the list. We also complete about 30 emergency responses annually. Superfund is most often used at abandoned sites or closed industrial facilities.

EPA uses its RCRA authorities to ensure proper management of hazardous wastes at operating facilities. EPA can also require these facilities to take cleanup actions when their operations have contaminated the facility itself or the surrounding environment. In Region 10, the RCRA program is currently overseeing 48 such high priority corrective actions. Of these, 18 are EPA-lead and 30 are state-lead sites.

The Brownfields program is an important part of our cleanup work. Over the past several years, working closely with our state partners, EPA Region 10 has funded 21 Brownfields assessments and showcase pilot projects totaling \$8.6 million. These grants have leveraged \$90 million in cleanup and redevelopment. We are looking forward to the positive impact of the new Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, signed by President Bush on January 11, 2002.

We continue to explore ways to improve our efforts to clean up hazardous waste sites as efficiently as possible, and to return sites to productive use while protecting human health and the environment. Being flexible in making cleanup decisions and improving cooperation with states, tribes and local communities have contributed to our success. While we continue to face significant cleanup challenges in Region 10, we are proud of the progress we have made. We hope the information that follows is useful in answering your questions about hazardous waste cleanup activities in Region 10.

**Cover photo: St. John's Bridge,
Portland Harbor.**

Michael F. Gearheard, Director
Office of Environmental Cleanup

Richard Albright, Director
Office of Hazardous Waste Management

Here's where to look for more information:

Partnerships with Tribes, States and Communities pages 2-3

Tribes, states, citizens and local governments' participation in cleanup is valued and encouraged through EPA's grants, training and technical assistance.

For Tribes

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/tribes>

For State and Federal Agencies

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/state>

Map of Superfund Sites in Oregon pages 4-5

Region 10's Superfund Site List

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/cleanup>

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Cleanup

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/cleanup/prg0.htm>

RCRA Sites List

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/ca/eis/maps/r10map.htm>

Emergency Response pages 8-9

Emergency responses include spills, counter-terrorism, drug labs, derailments, and abandoned facilities.

Oil & chemical spill reporting

<http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/index.html>

Northwest Area Contingency Plan

<http://www.rrt10nwac.com/>

Brownfields pages 10-11

EPA encourages cleanup and reuse of properties that are abandoned or underused because of perceived or actual contamination.

Brownfields in Region 10

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/bf>

**EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington
1-800-424-4EPA
Serving the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington**

Partnerships

Communities have a say in cleanups

EPA strives to give community members meaningful opportunities to be involved in its decisions. Public participation in Superfund goes far beyond required hearings and comment periods. Site-specific Community Involvement Plans ensure that communities get the information they want, have the opportunities they desire to weigh in on decisions, and be confident that their views are considered.

EPA also supports the formation of community advisory groups and provides funding for independent experts. These experts can help groups interpret technical data, understand site hazards, and learn about cleanup technologies.

EPA, states work together

EPA Region 10 and states collaborate on a wide range of work. At "mega-sites," such as Portland Harbor and the Duwamish Waterway, states and EPA co-manage the cleanups.

Another example of EPA and state cooperation is the development of a framework permit for the Evanite Fiber Facility. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and EPA Region 10 developed this permit, the first of its kind in the country, to complete cleanup at the Corvallis site. Under the permit, EPA defers to state oversight of the cleanup, allowing DEQ to save taxpayer money through a coordinated effort. This streamlines the cleanup and waste management into one combined effort.

The flexibility of the framework permit allows EPA to retain important compliance mechanisms in case they are necessary in the future. Other states in Region 10 may also use this framework model.

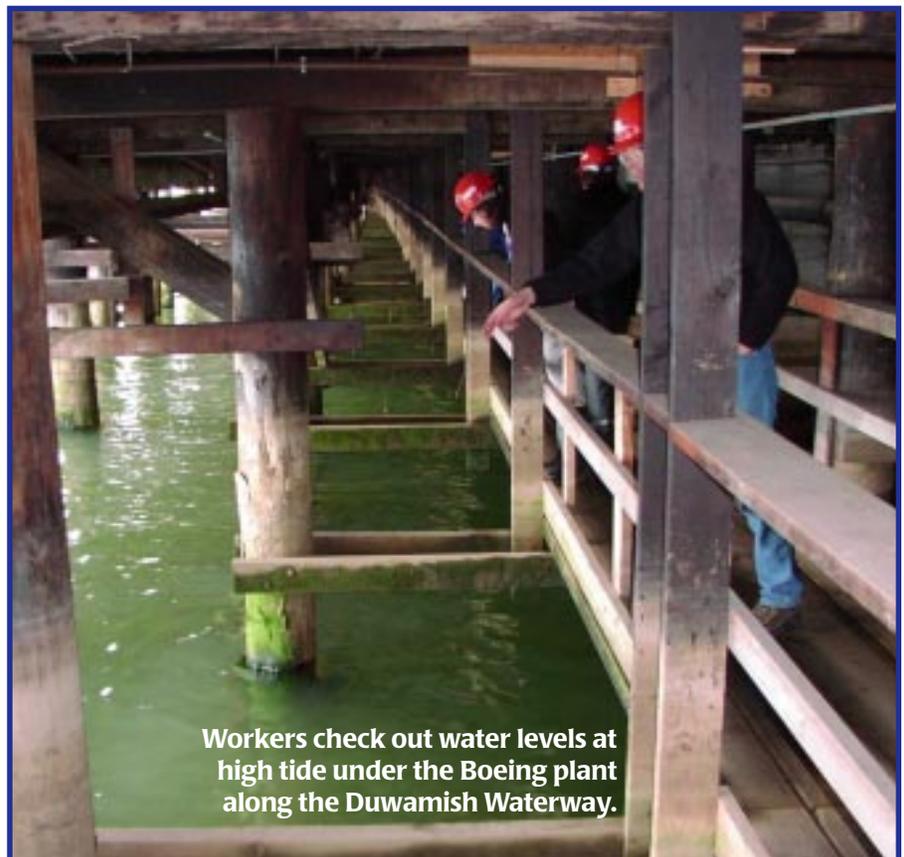
EPA funds Portland Harbor citizens' group

EPA awarded a Technical Assistance Grant to a local community organization, Willamette Riverkeeper, to help the community understand and participate in the cleanup process. Willamette Riverkeeper has hired a technical consultant to help the group interpret technical data, understand site hazards, and learn about cleanup technologies.

In January 2002, Willamette Riverkeeper hosted a well-

attended community forum on current and future site actions, and ways in which community members can stay informed and involved.

In May 2002, EPA will host small group discussions with diverse community members who are interested in the Portland Harbor cleanup. Groups will identify what matters most to them, and visualize what a successful cleanup looks like. This information will help EPA design cleanup alternatives with the community in mind.



Workers check out water levels at high tide under the Boeing plant along the Duwamish Waterway.

Boeing to dredge Duwamish sediment

At the Boeing plant on the Duwamish Waterway, extensive investigation of a PCB hotspot found that sediment is contaminated in front of and under the facility. A breakthrough in negotiations occurred when Boeing proposed to dredge sediment up to five feet deep or more and backfill the dredged area with clean soils. Boeing could begin this work as early as 2004.

Voluntary Cleanups Return Land to Productive Use

State Voluntary Cleanup Programs, funded in part by EPA, facilitate the cleanup of smaller sites that are less polluted than National Priorities List sites. In Region 10, Washington and Oregon have developed especially strong Voluntary Cleanup Programs.



Vancouver Center Superblock

About 700 tons of soil contaminated with gasoline at the former Lucky Lager Brewery were excavated and the once-abandoned property is now under redevelopment. Apartments, condominiums, retail and office space, and a parking garage will be open to Vancouver citizens starting in the spring of 2003.



**Before:
Abandoned
truck shop**

With assistance from Oregon's Voluntary Cleanup Program, a new Safeway is open on the site of a former truck shop in LaGrande. Cleanup included removal of 634 tons of contaminated soil, gravel drains, underground storage tanks, drums of toxic sludge and a pipeline.



After: New Safeway under construction

Tribes, EPA cooperate on Portland Harbor cleanup

Assisted by EPA funding, the Umatilla, Yakama Nation, Grand Ronde, Siletz, Nez Perce and Warm Springs Tribes are intimately involved in the Portland Harbor cleanup because their treaty-protected fisheries resources may be affected by contaminants at the site.

The tribes have participated in weekly project management meetings with EPA and the State, and helped negotiate the study phase of the cleanup. They have been involved in the development and review of the proposed cleanup work, including the human health and ecological risk assessment and site model. The tribes also assisted in a Cultural Resource Assessment.

EPA also funds cleanup participation at other Superfund sites for these tribes:



EPA Dive Team tests sediment at Portland Harbor.

Oregon:

Siletz
Grand Ronde

Warm Springs
Umatilla

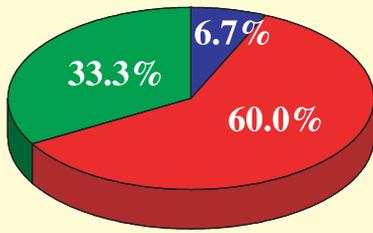
Washington:

Muckleshoot
Lower Elwah

Spokane
Suquamish

Colville
Yakama Nation

Long-term Cleanup Progress in Oregon



- Cleanup Planning
- Cleanup Underway
- Cleanup Completed

Congressional District: 01

- 1. Taylor Lumber

Congressional District: 02

- 2. Joseph Forest Products *
- 3. Martin-Marietta *
- 4. Umatilla Army Depot
- 5. Union Pacific RR Tie
- 6. White King/Lucky Lass

Congressional District: 03

- 7. Allied Plating, Inc. *
- 8. *E. Multnomah County GW*
- 9. Gould, Inc.
- 10. McCormick & Baxter
- 11. Portland Harbor
- 12. Reynolds Metals Company

Congressional District: 04

- 13. United Chrome Products

Congressional District: 04, 05

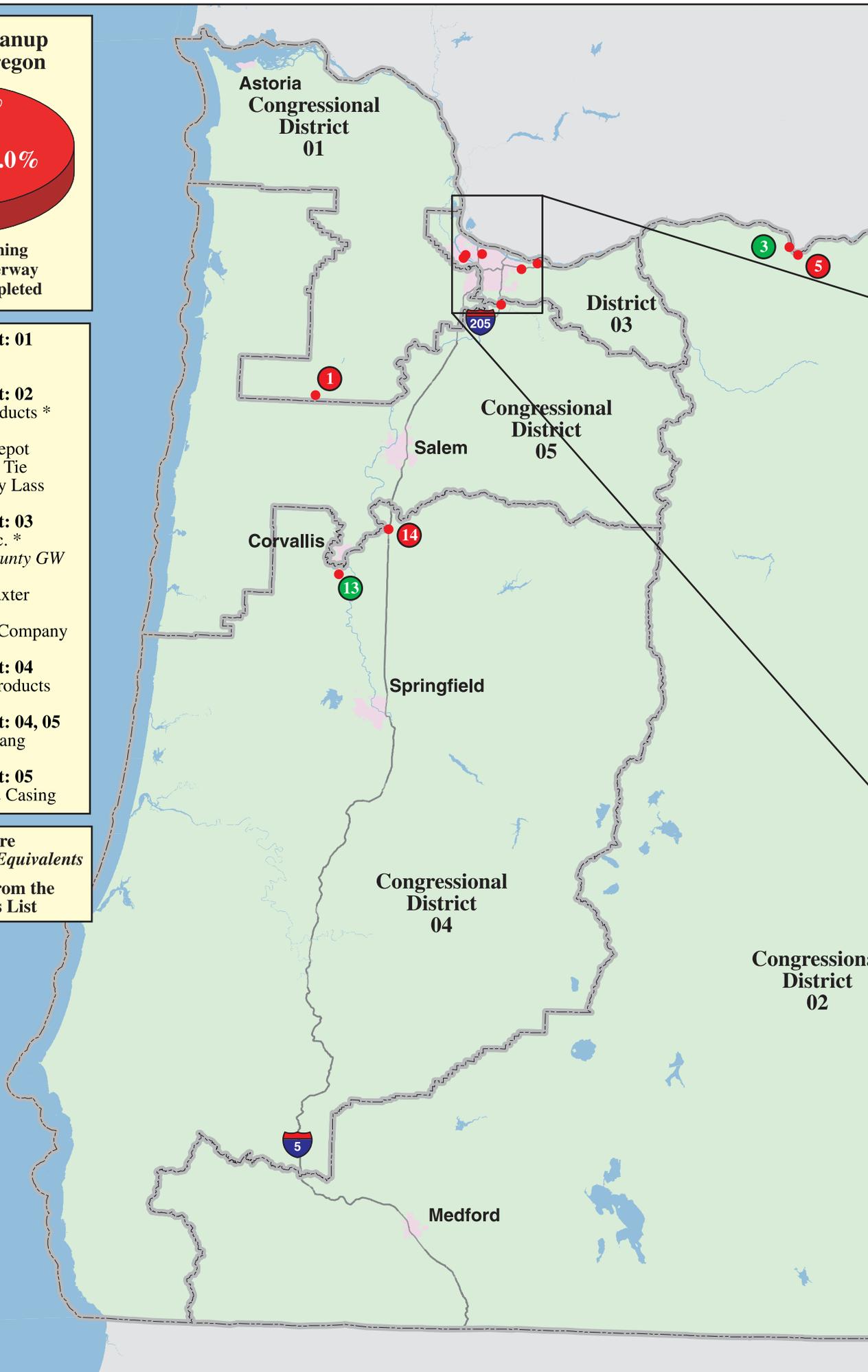
- 14. Teledyne Wah Chang

Congressional District: 05

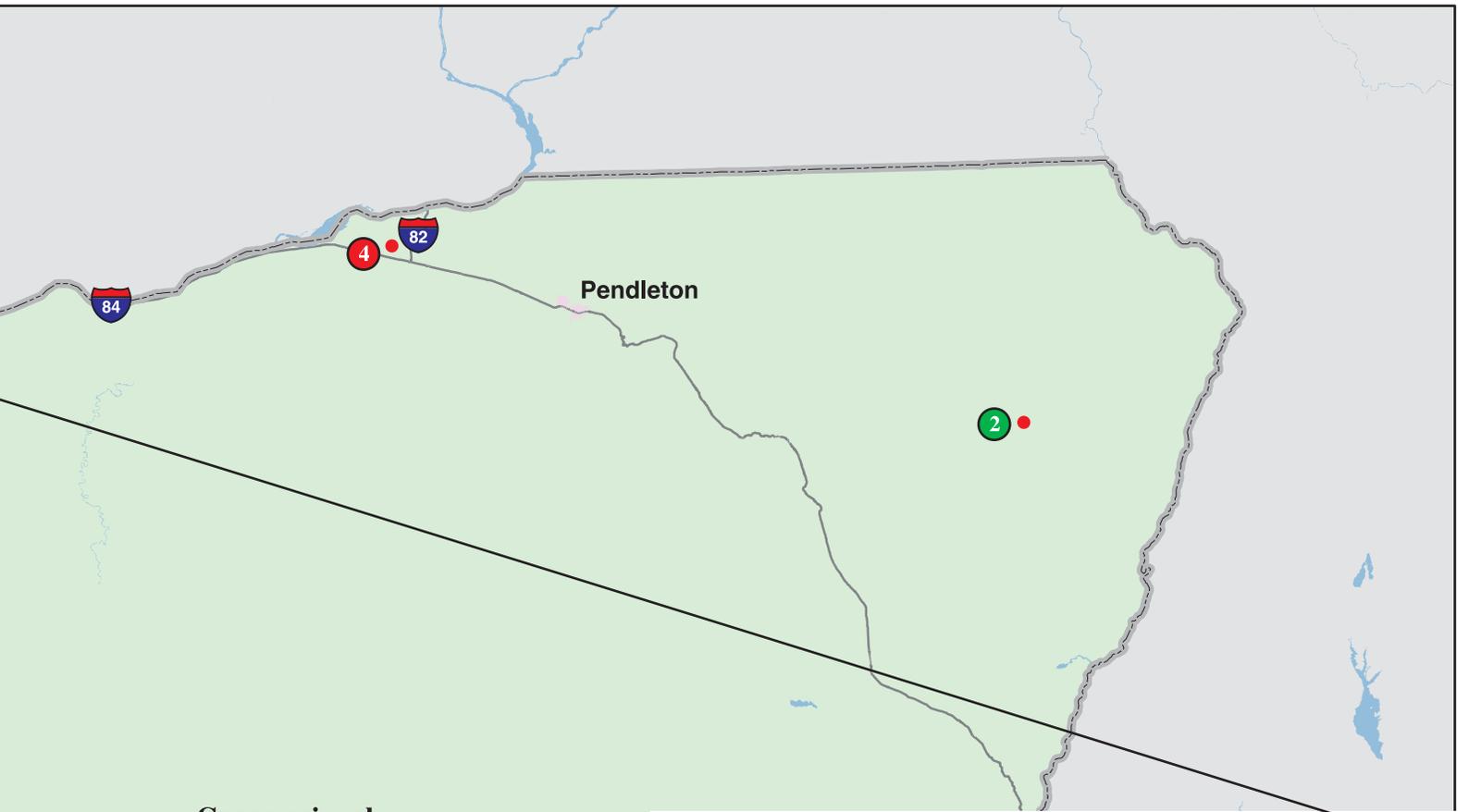
- 15. Northwest Pipe & Casing

Sites in italics are
National Priorities List Equivalents

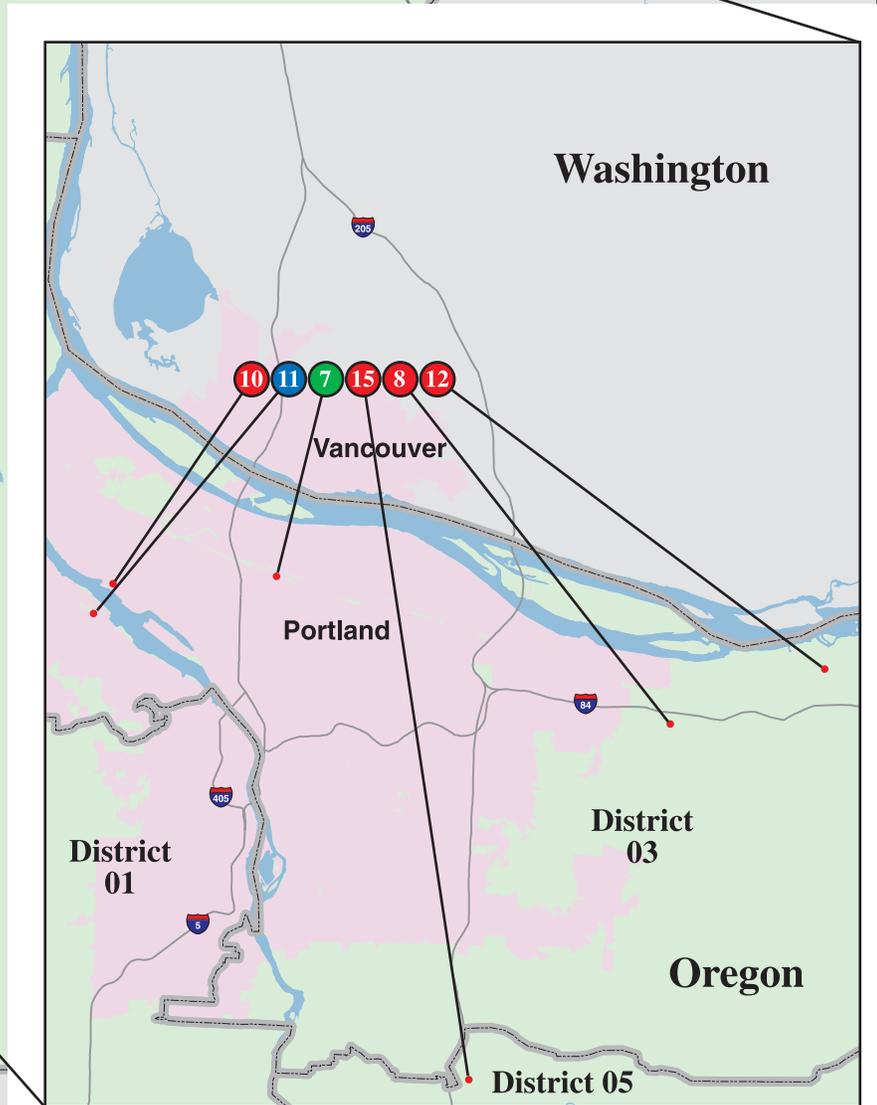
* Sites are Deleted from the
National Priorities List



Congressional
District
02



**Congressional
District
02**



Washington

Vancouver

Portland

**District
01**

**District
03**

Oregon

District 05

Emergency Response

EPA responds to:

- Spills • Terrorism • Drug Labs • Train Derailments •
- Oil Recyclers • Pesticide Sites • Abandoned Drums •

Hazardous chemicals discovered, removed at lab

The possibility of fire, explosion or extremely toxic gases greeted inspectors when they arrived at an unoccupied laboratory north of Hermiston, Oregon. The laboratory was located in a light industrial area near a milk processing facility, and concerns about an accident were great.

EPA's inspection revealed acids, arsenic, potassium cyanide, mercury and other chemicals, stored in a haphazard manner. To reduce the risk to the public and the environment from the mix of chemicals, crews moved quickly to secure the site. Of 1,849 containers found, about 380 contained hazardous substances and were sorted and disposed. Sampling now shows that contamination has been successfully cleaned up and the site is safe.



EPA inspectors enter a Hermiston lab littered with unknown contaminants.

Region 10 helps clean up Senate

Region 10 Emergency Responders relieved exhausted Mid-Atlantic EPA personnel at the Capitol Hill anthrax response. They prepared sampling plans and evaluated results to decide followup actions. Region 10 also directed contractors and other agencies in the cleanup of the buildings, monitored health and safety planning, and disposed of contaminated waste.

EPA Region 10's Emergency Response Unit and 25 local staffers from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Department of Health and Human Services are ready to respond to anthrax contaminated sites and conduct a site assessment safely and quickly.



Responders are ready for anything.

The responders planned and practiced this quick response at the Anthrax Response Workshop, which included field exercises for collecting samples and decontaminating facilities and personnel.

Quick response protects Tacoma residents

A blaze swept through a 100-foot pile of crushed cars in Tacoma, causing a billowing cloud of black smoke that could be seen as far away as Seattle.

As black smoke passed over Tacoma's neighborhoods, a decision had to be made whether residents should be evacuated.

EPA worked with the Washington Department of Ecology and the National Weather Service to estimate the potential path and longevity of the plume. EPA's quick response and assessment of the situation avoided forcing any Tacoma residents to leave their homes.

EPA monitored levels of dust, particulates and volatile organic compounds, and tested for other poisonous gases. None was found at a harmful level.

Portland eyesore razed to remove contaminants



Crews demolish a Portland plating facility and remove 4,700 tons of contaminated soil and debris.

Local residents expressed their appreciation to EPA for cleanup of contaminated soils under the dilapidated Industrial Chrome Plating building in Portland.

Located in a predominantly residential neighborhood, the chromium plating facility operated at that location for over 50 years. Soils were highly contaminated with lead and chromium. Exposure to chromium and lead was possible via direct exposure to soil, airborne particulates and surface water runoff.

EPA disposed of 4,700 tons of contaminated soil and debris, backfilled the property with clean soil, and capped the site to prevent migration of remaining contaminants.

Three businesses are now interested in buying this commercially attractive property just north of Interstate 84.

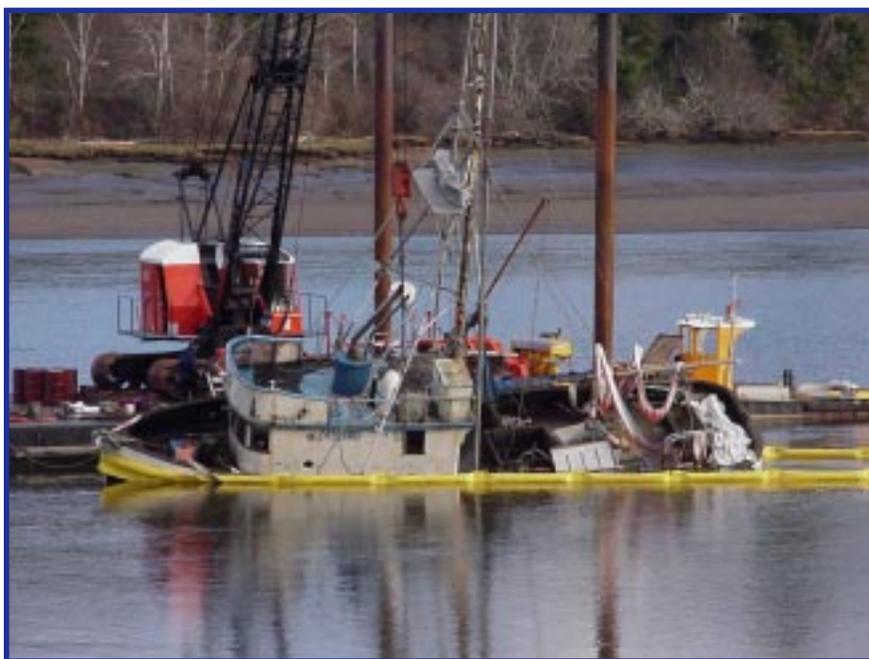
Grounded fishing ship leaks fuel, EPA responds

The fishing vessel *West Wind* ran aground and sank on February 23, 2002, releasing one-half gallon of diesel fuel per minute into the Yaquina River.

Cleanup crews from EPA and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality used a containment boom around the vessel to stop fuel from spreading. Quickly saturated, the absorbent materials had to be replaced constantly. Cleanup crews recovered about 100 gallons of fuel.

Divers inspected the *West Wind* and decided it would float. A barge and crane raised the ship before the next high tide, preventing any more fuel from leaking.

The river is home to the bald eagle, salmon and other federally protected species. Both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife surveyed the river and found no effects on the river's aquatic life.



A barge with a crane lifts the sunken and leaking *West Wind* out of the water and hauls her back to port for repairs.

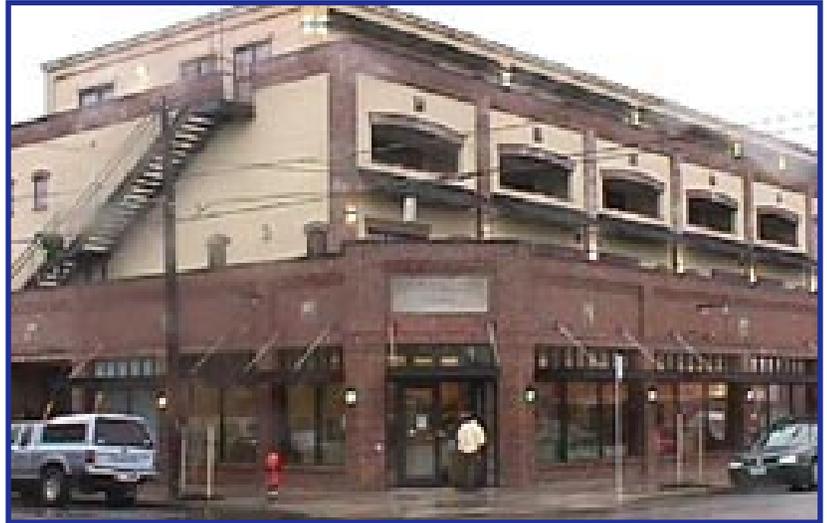
Brownfields and Redevelopment

New condos shine at former metal plating site

The Sellwood Lofts are now open on the site of the former Rose City Plating facility. The Multnomah County library leased the ground-floor space in the new mixed-use building. Additional commercial space and 16 residential condominium units fill two upper floors.

The opening culminated nearly 10 years of work by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the EPA Portland Brownfields Showcase to clean up and redevelop the site. DEQ contractors removed about 24,000 gallons of chemical wastes, 37 tons of sludge and 58 cubic yards of contaminated debris from the site.

Oregon DEQ studied the site using an EPA Brownfields grant. A Prospective Purchaser Agreement with DEQ allowed a developer to purchase the property with limited liability. The developer then demolished the old building, removed 558 tons of contaminated soil and completed construction of the Sellwood Lofts this year.



Multnomah County Library

Portland's new Sellwood Lofts house a library, apartments and office space.

EPA programs help tribe sell abandoned mill

EPA's Waste Management and Brownfields programs shared equipment and other resources to complete the STEDCO Mill site assessment in record time.

STEDCO is an idled lumber mill near the Yaquina River in Lincoln County, Oregon. The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz purchased the mill for redevelopment, but the previous owner did not assess the site's possible contamination.

EPA is sampling the soil and ground water to identify any contaminants. The tribes will make any necessary cleanup part of the redevelopment.



A worker at STEDCO Mill drills soil samples.

Cleanup and reuse happen side by side

A 34-acre parcel of the Taylor Lumber facility, in Sheridan, was purchased by Pacific Wood Preserving of Oregon.

EPA negotiated with the new owners to facilitate the reuse of the facility while continuing the cleanup at the site. Chief operating officer, Elaina Jackson, told the McMinnville *News-Register* that EPA is concerned about the environment and the economy, and helped the deal go through. "They wanted the community to have jobs, so they worked very well with us to help us get this plant." The new owner will use preservatives that have a low environmental impact.

Water pumps already in place prevent pollution in the ground water under the plant from spreading to a supplemental source of drinking water for Sheridan.

New approaches to integrate RCRA, which governs operating facilities, and Superfund, are moving the Taylor Lumber site toward economic and environmental restoration.

New Brownfields law will ease redevelopment

The new Brownfields legislation will encourage and assist Region 10 states, tribes, communities and property owners in cleaning up and redeveloping Brownfields and protecting green space.

States, tribes and communities will benefit from new cleanup grants and expanded site assessment and job training grant opportunities. The new law provides more resources and flexibility to assess and clean up more types of sites, including petroleum and mining sites. This flexibility will be particularly important in the Northwest and Alaska.

Region 10 states and tribes will also benefit from increased resources to support their response programs. Small businesses, prospective purchasers and innocent landowners will benefit from Superfund liability relief.

Clackamas Site prepared for reuse

Over 2,000 truckloads of contaminated soil were removed from the Northwest Pipe and Casing site in Clackamas. EPA will complete the soil cleanup by covering the entire site with two feet of clean soil to prevent human contact with the hazardous chemicals left from years of pipe manufacturing and coating.

Contaminated soil was sent to a landfill or cleaned through thermal treatment. About 750 truckloads of treated soil were returned to the site to fill the excavated area.



Crews remove contaminated soil to protect neighbors in Clackamas, Oregon.

EPA found pipes, tanks and drums buried on the site. These materials were removed for recycling or disposal. EPA's soil cleanup came in under budget at \$2.9 million.

Contaminated ground water will be treated in the next phase of cleanup, which will begin next year. Already, developers are interested in purchasing the site for reuse.

Astoria redevelopment wins award



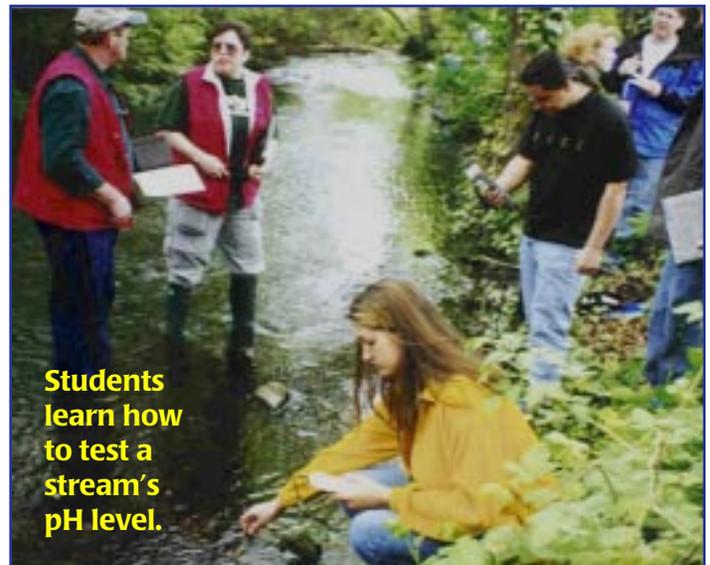
AREA Properties

An Astoria lumber mill was redeveloped into homes and parks along the Columbia River, now called Mill Pond Village. Funding for cleanup came from EPA, Oregon, the city of Astoria, a nonprofit, and ShoreBank Pacific. The EPA provided assistance with a Brownfields grant.

The Phoenix Award honors Mill Pond Village for inspiring other communities to revitalize their landscapes. Ned Harper of *Brownfields Weekly* said, "The Phoenix Awards are the brownfields version of the Oscars."

Job training exceeds goals

Brownfields development in Tacoma, Washington has resulted in a local building boom and a shortage of skilled labor. The city of Tacoma's Job Training Pilot, funded by EPA, is developing a pool of skilled local workers to assess and clean up sites. The program offers a dual track, one in Environmental Technician Training and one in Construction Training. This 1-year-old pilot has far exceeded its goals: 54 students have completed training, and 35 students have jobs.



Students learn how to test a stream's pH level.